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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Political Tensions Between Party and URO

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The Presidium of the Communist Party has issued secret directives to all Party organizations in the country to remain on the alert for an undefined period. In the same directives the convocation of the security departments of the Party has been ordered, and the designation of security chiefs in each Communist cell is urged. The new directives were signed by Bruno Koehler on his recent return from Budapest, where he was attending the Cominform session.
2. The reason for the directives is the intense political tension resulting from the effort of the URO syndicalist organization to obtain a share in the direction of the government. The URO drive is backed by workers' committees in several important industrial districts, and there have been clashes between URO leaders and Party officials. The districts most seriously affected are the North Bohemian coal district, the Jihlava Moravian railroad center, the Prague machine shops, the Slovak iron mines, the Moravian oil fields, the Silesian nitrogen works at Moravská Ostrava, and the former Skoda plant at Pilsen.
3. Jan Salga, newly appointed secretary of the Central Committee of the Party, has been urging strong action against the URO agitation, but Široký is hesitant about taking action against workers' committees in essential centers of heavy industry. Mediation is being sought by Dr. František Zupka, chairman of the URO.

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